



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 5a7
December 20, 2016

Ken Wagner, Ph.D.
Commissioner

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TO: Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education
FROM: Ken Wagner, Ph.D., Commissioner *KW*
RE: **Charette - New Charter Proposal**

I present for your consideration a recommendation to deny Charette's proposal for a new charter school.

New Charter School Proposal:

Charette proposes to be an independent charter located in and serving the community of Providence. In its first year, 2017-18, Charette would serve 113 students in grades 9 and 10. The school would be at-scale by 2019-20 and would serve 225 students in grades 9-12. Charette's proposed school model combines blended learning with an urban-planning theme.

In accordance to R.I.G.L. §16-77.3-3, approval of new proposed charters require the action of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. Further, when considering a charter expansion, R.I.G.L. § 16-77.3-3 requires the Council to place substantial weight on the fiscal impact on the city or town, programmatic impact on the sending school district, and the educational impact on the students in the sending district to ensure that the proposal is economically prudent for the city or town, and academically prudent for the proposed sending school district and for all students in the sending district.

RIDE has conducted an in-depth review of the proposed charter to determine if the proposal should be recommended for preliminary approval. Preliminary approval is an endorsement of a sound school design and model that will lead to high-quality academic outcomes, but does not imply a readiness to begin operation. The school must meet mandatory milestones, including those described under C-1-4 of the Board of Regents Regulations Governing Rhode Island Public Charter Schools and the statutory provisions relating to independent charter schools pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-77.3, in order to receive final approval by the Council to begin operations in the 2017-2018 school year. RIDE's evaluation included a review of the proposal from an independent evaluator, public feedback, and the impact that the proposed new charter would have on local communities.

Based on the above evaluation, RIDE has concluded that the proposal submitted by Charette is not satisfactory at this time, and is therefore not recommended for preliminary approval. RIDE encourages Charette to use the feedback provided throughout the evaluation process to refine their school model and submit a new charter proposal in subsequent charter application cycles.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to deny the charter proposal submitted by Charette.

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